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## I GAER GAI

*Wedi ei hail adciliadu.*

Llawer Caer, yn daer, i'w dydd a losgwyd,  
 Lesg-waith wyr di-grefydd;  
 Y gaer hon i gywir hydd  
 Caer gain yw Caer Gai newydd.

P. B. W.

ROWLAND FYCHAN \* a' i cant.

## ENGLISH POETRY.

TRANSLATION OF GWALCHMAI'S ODE TO OWAIN  
GWYNEDD †.

The generous chief I sing of Rhodri's line,  
 With princely gifts endowed, whose hand  
 Hath often curbed the border-land,  
 Owain, great heir of Britain's throne,  
 Whom fair Ambition marks her own,  
 Who ne'er to yield to man was known;  
 Nor heaps he stores at Avarice's shrine.

\* Rowland Fychan lived during the latter part of the 17th century, and distinguished himself as a Welsh writer, and particularly by the translation of one or two English works. He lived at Caer Gai in Merionethshire, the place here mentioned to have been burnt in the time of Cromwell. So much of the merit of these ENGLYNTION depends upon the turn of expression in the original, that they could not be advantageously rendered into English.—Ed.

† It is not very easy to trace in the Welsh Histories the event, to which this Poem relates. But, as Gwalchmai lived at the period of its occurrence, it is not too much to conclude, that the particular action, here detailed, may have escaped the more general researches of later historians. Humphrey Llwyd, in his “Historie of Cambria,” notices two battles fought near the Menai, during the reign of Owain Gwynedd: one in 1142, “when a great number of Irishmen and Scots landed at Abermenay,” upon which occasion Owain fell upon them with such slaughter, that but few escaped alive. The other happened in 1157, in which year Henry 2d sent a fleet to Anglesey under the command of Madog ab Meredydd, Prince of Powys, part of whose force made a descent on the island, and, after ravaging the country and plundering two churches, were all cut off by the inhabitants in their attempt to regain their vessels. Moses Williams was of opinion, that Gwalchmai's Ode had reference to this action; but neither this nor the former seems of sufficient importance to justify the high strains of the poet. We must therefore infer, either that no memorial of this particular battle has been preserved by the ordinary historians, or else that Gwalchmai alludes to a series of victories obtained by Owain over Henry 2d, in 1157, commencing with the successful ambuscade of Owain's two sons at Cæd Eulo,

Three mighty legions o'er the sea-flood came,  
 Three fleets intent on sudden 'fray,  
 One from Erin's verdant coast,  
 One with Lochlin's armed host,  
 Long burthens of the billowy way :  
 The third, from far, bore them of Norman name,  
 To fruitless labour doom'd and barren fame.

'Gainst Mona's gallant Lord \*, where lo! he stands,  
 His warlike sons rang'd at his side †,  
 Rushes the dark tumultuous tide,  
 Th' insulting tempest of the hostile bands.  
 Boldly he turns the furious storm,  
 Before him wild Confusion flies,  
 While Havoc rears her hideous form,  
 And prostrate Rank expiring lies :  
 Conflict upon conflict growing,  
 Gore on gore in torrents flowing,  
 Shrieks answering shrieks, and Slaughter raving,  
 And high o'er Moelfre's front a thousand banners waving ‡.

Now thickens still the frantic war,  
 The flashing death-strokes gleam afar,  
 Spear rings on spear, flight urges flight,  
 And drowning victims plunge to night ;

in Flintshire, and terminating with the defeat of Madog ab Meredydd in Anglesey, as above mentioned. The intermediate successes were obtained near Flint and Rhuddlan: and on the former occasion several Englishmen of distinction were slain. It may add to the authenticity of the account given in this Ode to mention, that Gwalchmai was himself a warrior.—ED.

\* The original words, here translated "Mona's gallant Lord" are "*draig Mon*," literally the dragon or chief of Mona; for *draig* has both significations. Gwalchmai elsewhere uses "*draig Prydain*," for "Sovereign of Britain."—Gray was wrong in supposing the word had any reference to Owain's crest.—Owain is here called Chief of Mona, in all probability, because the general residence of the Princes of Gwynedd was at Aberffraw in that island.—ED.

† According to Humphrey Llwyd's History, Owain Gwynedd had as many as seventeen sons, and most of them remarkable for their valorous conduct.—ED.

‡ The hill, here called *Moelfre*, is perhaps in that part of Anglesey, near the Menai, now called *Tal y Voel*. The original name, however, is now lost.—It may be proper to apprise the English reader, that the word is pronounced *Moeluray*.—ED.

Till Menai's overburthened tide,  
 Wide-blushing with the streaming gore,  
 And choked with carnage, ebbs no more ;  
 While mail-clad warriors, on her side,  
 In anguish drag their deep-gash'd wounds along,  
 And 'fore the red-stained Chief are heaped the mangled throng.

Thus Loegria's onset, Loegria's flight,  
 The struggle, doom'd her power to tame,  
 Shall, with her routed sons, unite  
 To raise great Owain's sword to fame :  
 While seven score tongues of his exploits shall tell,  
 And all their high renown through future ages swell.

\* \*

TRANSLATIONS OF THE PENNILLION.

XXXIX.

On Meirion's hills (the truth to speak)  
 Delight is often found ;  
 For though the scene be bare and bleak,  
 Yet mirth and joy abound :  
 Who would expect the cuckoo's song  
 To hear the mountain bogs among ?

XL.

Who is himself quite free from blame,  
 Let him alone my faults proclaim ;  
 But those, whose faults we daily see,  
 May spare their pains to censure me.

XLI.

Turn, quickly turn thy face, I pray,  
 And with thy face turn here thy heart,  
 Oh, let thy will too turn this way ;  
 Think something of thy lover's smart.

XLII.

Oft has it been my wish to gain  
 A lover in a minstrel-swain,  
 Who, with his harp's melodious pow'r,  
 Might soothe the morn and evening hour.

\* \*